UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/496
10 October 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 70

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 6 October 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose the text of the joint statement issued by the contributing States to the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force for Bougainville, namely Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, following the signing, on 28 September 1994 at Suva, of the Agreement concerning the Status of the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force for Bougainville (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 70.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER, AM
Permanent Representative
of Australia to the United
Nations

(Signed) Ratu Manasa K. SENILOLI
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Fiji to the
United Nations

(Signed) Colin KEATING
Permanent Representative of
New Zealand to the United
Nations

(Signed) Rex Stephen HOROI
Permanent Representative of the
Solomon Islands to the United
Nations

(Signed) Jean RAVOU-AKII
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Vanuatu to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Joint statement dated 28 September 1994 by the signatories to the Agreement concerning the Status of the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force for Bougainville

The Governments that had previously agreed, in principle, to contribute to the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force for Bougainville have now agreed on the terms, including the legal arrangements, for its formation and operation.

The legal arrangements are embodied in a regional status of forces agreement, the agreement between Papua New Guinea and Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Australia and New Zealand, concerning the status of elements of the defence forces of those countries deployed in the North Solomons Province of Papua New Guinea as part of the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force, which was signed, on behalf of all of the countries named, at Suva today.

Consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force is to assist in the peace process in Bougainville in response to formal requests from the Government of Papua New Guinea.

The assistance will be provided on the basis of a guarantee contained in the cease-fire agreement between the Government of Papua New Guinea and representatives of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, the body known as the "Bougainville Interim Government" and the Bougainville Interim Authority Chairmen that

> "The security of the neutral South Pacific ... Peace-keeping Force is ... guaranteed."

In agreeing to contribute to the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force, the signatories to the regional status of forces agreement emphasize that their Governments are acting in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations which cover the role of regional arrangements, and the development of pacific settlement of local disputes through such arrangements. While respecting the sovereignty of Papua New Guinea, the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force will at all times remain neutral in carrying out its agreed mission.

Thus, the overall purpose of the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force will be "to establish a secure and neutral environment" for the Bougainville Peace Conference scheduled to begin on 10 October 1994. Its specific tasks include securing the conference site, providing security and protection for delegates to the conference and providing a presence in three neutral zones.

The South Pacific Peace-keeping Force will be made up of members of the disciplined forces from Tonga, Fiji and Vanuatu. A senior officer from Tonga will be chief of operations. The ground force commander will come from Fiji, while the joint forces commander, including for logistic support, will be provided by Australia.

Logistical, training and financial support will be provided by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. The Government of Solomon Islands will continue to provide various forms of assistance, including facilities for members of the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force in transit to and from Bougainville.

The contributors to the South Pacific Peace-keeping Force call on everyone in Bougainville, whatever their allegiances might be, to respect their neutrality and to cooperate in the peace process by doing whatever they can to ensure that the Bougainville peace conference is held in a neutral and secure atmosphere.